



# St. Agatha News

49 Cathedral Bluffs Drive  
Scarborough, ON M1M 2T6  
416-393-5302  
twitter.com/StAgathaSchool  
tcdsb.org/schools/stagatha  
School Calendar: goo.gl/Khb6QU



## Virtue of the Month: Hospitality

September 2017

### From the Principal:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer. September is always an exciting time for staff, parents and students alike – a time filled with new beginnings, new friendships and nervous anticipation. On a monthly basis, we will continue to highlight theological virtues. The virtue of the month for September is **Hospitality**. Students will be encouraged to look for ways in which they can ensure that all members of our community feel welcome, included and valued.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new Principal and Vice-Principal of St. Agatha. This school has a stellar reputation and we look forward to working with the students, staff, parents and parish of this community.

This school year marks the culmination of the TCDSB three-year, pastoral plan 'Together With One Voice: Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School. Catholic education is built on the partnership among our families, parishes and schools and we are looking forward to celebrating the foundation of our school community.

Back to school season signals a time of new beginnings with high hopes and expectations for this new school year. We extend the virtue of hospitality to our new staff and students joining us and they all bring new talents, thoughts and ideas to the school. We are fortunate to welcome to the St. Agatha Family Lisa Stagg (FSL PM) Ms. Ann Gomes (Gr. 6 AM), Mr. Derek Elie (Gr. 7) Ms. Gabby Phillips (ECE) and joining us in our office is Ms. Sylvana Perri as our secretary. We congratulate Mrs. McEachen on her retirement and congratulate Mrs. Robinson who is now the head secretary at Our Lady of Fatima. (See farewell comment inside)

Please plan to join us for the **Welcome BBQ and Curriculum Night** on **Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**, beginning at 5:00 pm. (Please see form) This will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn about the curriculum and other expectations for the coming year while gathering for a BBQ. We look forward to working together with the parent, school and parish communities to provide an excellent Catholic education for all of our students.

God bless!

R. Aunger  
Principal

Anthony Naoum  
Vice-Principal

### CONTACTS:

**Principal:** Ryan Aunger  
**Vice-Principal** Anthony Naoum  
**Secretary:** Sylvana Perri  
**CSAC Chair** Tanya Baksh  
**Superintendent:** Shawna Campbell  
(416)222-8282 (x2263)  
**Ward 12 Trustee:** Nancy Crawford  
(416) 512-3412

**CPIC (Parent Engagement--TCDSB)**  
[www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)

**OAPCE Toronto**  
(Provincial Voice for Parents)  
[www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto](http://www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto)

### BELL TIMES:

**9:00** ARRIVAL  
**10:25** A.M. RECESS  
**11:45** LUNCH HOUR BEGINS  
**12:45** LUNCH HOUR ENDS  
**2:25** P.M. RECESS  
**3:30** DISMISSAL

### 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Number of School Days **194**  
Number of Professional Activity Days **7**  
Oct 6, Nov 17, Dec 1, Jan 19, Feb 16, Jun 8, Jun 29  
**Labour Day** Monday, September 4, 2017  
**First Day** Tuesday, September 5, 2017  
**Thanksgiving Day** Monday, October 9, 2017  
**Christmas Break** December 25, 2017- January 7, 2018  
**Family Day** February 19, 2018  
**Mid-Winter Break** March 12-16, 2018 (inclusive)  
**Good Friday** March 30, 2018  
**Easter Monday** April 2, 2018  
**Victoria Day** Monday, May 21, 2018  
**School Year Ends** Thursday, June 28, 2018

**St. Boniface Catholic Church**  
Father Robson  
21 Markanna Dr. Scarborough  
(416) 261-5983

### Staff List

FIELP – Mdm. Keldi  
ECE – Ms. Phillips  
FIELP – Mdm. Fossi-Bakop  
ECE – Ms. Mbuku  
FIELP – Mdm. Chan Lee  
ECE – Ms. Kija  
ELP – Mr. Murphy  
ECE – Ms. Fernandes  
FI01 – Mdm. Awadalla  
FI01 – M. Attila  
1/2 - Mrs. Balkovec  
FI02 – Mdm. Katungutere  
FI02 – Mdm. Clarrisse  
3 – Mrs. Bell  
FI03 – Mlle. Goguen  
FI03/04 – Mdm. Lazazzera  
FI04 – Mr. Remigio  
04/05 – Mrs. Murphy  
FI05 – Mdm. Da Silva  
FI05 – Mdm. Metwally  
06 – Mrs. Sciberras  
06 AM – Mrs. Gomes  
FI06 – Mdm. Metwally  
07 – Mr. Elie  
FI07- Mlle. Gringas  
08 – Mrs. McCowen  
FI08 – Mlle. Gringas  
French – Mdm. Metwally  
French – Mdm. Stagg  
French Specialty – M. Pelliccione  
French Specialty – Mr. Cianfarani  
Instrumental Music – Ms. Vandersluis  
Vocal Music – Mr. Hryniewski  
Spec Ed – Ms. Ciechonska  
EAs – Ms. Al Turks, Ms. Mederios, Ms. Flood, Ms. Jardine  
CYW – Ms. Pirrotta  
Library Tech – Mrs. Moulds  
Lunchtime Supervisors – Ms. Borsuk, Ms. McIntyre, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Morelli, Ms. Pearson, Mr. Rosario  
Head Custodian – Mr. Icaro  
Custodian – Mr. Cusack  
Custodian – Mr. Papadopoulos  
Secretary – Mrs. Perri  
Clerk Typist – Mrs. Burrows

### Class Assignments:

At the end of each school year, class lists are created based on the projected enrolment for the following school year. The actual enrolment, however, rarely matches the projections exactly and it is often necessary to make changes to class groupings. For this reason, your child's class and teacher assignment should be considered tentative until the end of September.

### Allergy Alert:

Please note that we have a number of students who have  **dangerous, life-threatening allergies** to certain foods. For that reason, we expect that students will not bring to school any items that contain peanuts or nuts. If a caregiver prepares your child's lunch and snacks, please remind them about this policy.

If your child has an allergy for which an epi-pen has been prescribed, please contact your child's teacher and the Principal, to discuss your child's safety plan. This plan must include two epi-pens: one to be carried by your child and one to be stored in the main office.

### Student Supervision:

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., an adult is in the school yard supervising students as they arrive at school. **Please do not drop students earlier than 8:30 a.m., since they will be unsupervised.**

### Permission to Leave:

Students are not allowed to leave the school property during the school day. The only exception to this rule is for students who are being picked up by a parent. Please check in at the office.

### Absences & Lates:



Please use our Safe Arrival Program for student absences and/or lates by calling 416-393-5302 before 9:00 a.m. We also have a night line, so you can call in your child's absence in the evening prior to their absence, press '2' and leave a message and it will be picked up the following morning. Please leave your child's name, clearly spelling the last name, and the reason for the child's absence.

Students arriving after 9:00 a.m. must enter through the front door of the school and report to the office to get a late slip before going to class. Thank you, in advance, for supporting our efforts to impress upon our students the importance of punctuality.

### Student Accident

#### Insurance:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board **does not** provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent or guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

We do make available the insuremykids® Protection Plan for students through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian.

This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable rates. Benefits included are:

- ~ dental expenses (resulting from an accident)
- ~ total and permanent disability
- ~ paralysis/loss of use
- ~ special disability benefits
- ~ death benefits.

If your child is not covered by your employer's plan for medical/dental accident benefits not paid by OHIP, Reliable Life offers a plan tailored to your needs. Plan rates vary from \$13.00 to \$33.00 per child. All rates are one-time annual premiums. Family rates for 3 or more children are also offered.

If you wish to subscribe you may apply 24/7 directly at: [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com)

Any questions should be directed to Reliable Life Insurance Company toll free at:

**1-800-463-KIDS (5437).**

### **Student Agenda Books:**

We strongly encourage the use of a planner to support the development of organization skills and to facilitate ongoing communication between home and school. Student agenda books for children in grades 1 – 8 are available at a cost of \$4 which has been

subsidized by the CPSC. Agendas will be available for students in mid September.

### **Dress Code:**

All students are expected to wear appropriate Dress Code attire. The Dress Code consists of a combination of white or navy blue tops with navy blue bottoms, (e.g. plain white top & navy blue bottom or, navy blue top & navy blue bottom, navy socks, no denim, no stripes, no patterns, no logos). Any shoe colour is acceptable and running shoes are strongly recommended to ensure that the children can play safely (i.e. flip flops are not sturdy and could allow injury). Please note that the Dress Code does not require that you purchase any items from a particular supplier.

### **Dress-Down Days:**

Throughout the school year, there will be special 'dress down' days. On these days, students will be allowed to wear clothes other than the dress code, but are always expected to wear modest and appropriate attire. Dress-down days will be announced via the school calendar and/or notes home.

### **School Photos:**

School photos will be taken on Wednesday, October 4th. Students are required to wear their uniforms for the photos.

### **Terry Fox Walk:**

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be participating in our school 'Terry Fox Walk'. Students in Gr. 1 – 8 will walk in the neighbourhood and students in JK and SK will complete a modified (shorter) version. This is a fundraising event and

students are encouraged to donate a 'Toonie for Terry' in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Students are allowed to wear red & white in support of this Canadian hero.



The Terry Fox Foundation

### **High School:**

The list of 2017 TCDSB Secondary School Fall Open House dates for Grade 8 students is now complete and available on-line at: [www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.tcdsb.org/school/OpenHouses/Pages/Default.aspx)

All Open Houses begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Grade 7 & 8 students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend one or more of the scheduled open houses to learn more about the various programs, services and activities as they prepare for a Catholic secondary school education. High school applications will be distributed at the end of October and due at school by early November (details to follow).

### **School Online**

This year, the school board is moving to a system that allows parents to pay for school activities on line. St. Agatha is scheduled to begin this program later in the school year. More information will follow about this exciting program

### **CSAC Meetings:**

All parents are invited to the meetings held by the Catholic School Advisory Committee.



The first CSAC meeting for the year will take place on **Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** CSAC elections will take place at this meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved, please join us!

### **Online Newsletter and Calendar**

In the interest of being ecofriendly, we are planning to send the monthly newsletter and calendar to the parent community online instead of printing hard copies. Please make sure that your email is up to date on your child's information form. There will always be hard copies available. We will start this in the new calendar year.

### **'Remind':**

If you are interested in receiving reminders about school events via text message, you are invited to join 'Remind' (which is free), by sending a text to **(647)931-1274** with the message **@stagathacs**

### **Acceptable Use Policy:**

Included in this newsletter is a Student Internet Agreement form. The agreement summarizes the *TCDSB Acceptable Use Policy*. This policy governs the proper use of technology and electronic communication in our school. The purpose of the AUP is to provide students and their parents with a set of guidelines that outline the safe and appropriate use of technology. Throughout the first few weeks of school, classroom teachers will be

reviewing these expectations with the students; parents are asked to do the same. Once you have reviewed the agreement with your child, students (Gr. 1 – 8) and their parents are asked to sign and return the Student Internet Agreement form. For the complete text of the policy and related documents, visit: <http://www.tcdsb.org/board/policies/aup>.



### **Personal Electronic Devices (Cell phones, etc.)**

Students will not be allowed to use personal electronic devices unless given permission by and directly supervised by a teacher. If your child has a cell phone for safety reasons, we expect that it will be turned off and stored in your child's backpack during the school day and during any school-related activity. Please do not attempt to contact your child or encourage your child to contact you via the cell phone. Should you need to contact your child during the school day due to an emergency situation, please contact the office.



If personal electronic devices are used inappropriately or without teacher permission at school or during any school-related activity, the item will be confiscated and will only be returned when a parent accompanies the child to the office to retrieve it.

### **Curriculum Night:**

Please plan to join us for **Welcome BBQ and Curriculum Night** on

**Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>,** beginning at 5:00pm. The curriculum night will follow at 6:30pm. This will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn about the curriculum and other expectations for the coming year. We look forward to working together with the parent, school and parish communities to provide an excellent Catholic education for all of our students. Thank you to our Fantastic CPSC for the BBQ.

### **Before and After Care**

This year, St. Agatha has a before and after school program. If you require more information, please contact Vanessa at Network Child Care Services [stagatha@networkchildcare.com](mailto:stagatha@networkchildcare.com)

Please note:  
Attached are important permission forms, as well as other documents from the CPSC. Please complete and return them to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Thank you!

### **Special Service from the TCDSB**

As part of the TCDSB's goal of Fostering Student Achievement and Well Being, the Special Services department endeavours to support our special education students in achieving academic excellence and meeting the Ontario Catholic Graduate School Expectations. The department offers a variety of supports to students based on their need(s) and/or identification(s). For further information please visit the Special Services department link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/Pages/default.aspx>

Parents/caregivers are reminded that if they require support in accessing the Special Services department link, they may ask the school principal for assistance. Alternately, for families who require access to a computer to visit the site, they may access an electronic device through the Toronto Public Library.

### **A Special Message from Mrs. Robinson**

As the new school year begins I would like to take a moment and wish everyone a happy, healthy and successful school year at St. Agatha. I was able to be a part of St. Agatha community for the past 6 years and have gotten to watch your children grow in to amazing individuals.

As I moved on to new adventures I will take with me many wonderful memories that I have learned. Thank you all and God Bless

Sandra Robinson

### **Parish News**

First School Mass is Wednesday, September 27 at 9:30am. All are welcome.

### **Sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation**

Parents of children in Grade 2 please note the dates and times below regarding information and registration for the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

1 - Parent Information Meeting (Child not required to attend) Sunday September 17 at 1:30pm or Sunday September 24 at 1:30pm

\*\*Held in the Church\*\*

2 - Registration Thursday September 28 from 6:00 to 7:00PM OR Saturday September 30 from 10:00 to 11:00AM  
\*\*Held in the St. Stephen's Room\*\*  
Students in Grade 3 and up who have not yet received these sacraments and would like to register are also invited to attend one of these meetings.  
Registration Requirement: Please provide a recent copy of the baptismal certificate at the time of registration. There is a registration fee of \$35. For further information or questions, please contact Church office.

### **Children's Liturgy**

The Children's Liturgy will resume on September 17th, Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass.  
Geared towards children in Kindergarten, grades 1 through 5. Our children will be called up after the opening prayer and return to their parents during the offertory. While in the Hall, they will receive religious instruction centered around the Sunday Gospel.  
Our goal is to make the scriptures more accessible to our children and pass on the riches of our faith.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY and ROUTINES

Well-rehearsed school bus routines are an important part of school bus safety. Please assist us by reviewing these expectations with your child:

Getting on the Bus Safely:

- Be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
- Wait at the designated stop in a safe place, well back from the side of the road.
- Remember the 'Danger Zone' is anywhere close enough to the bus to touch it. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the 'Danger Zone'.
- Wait until the bus comes to a full stop before attempting to get on the bus.
- Hold the handrail as you get on the bus.
- Do not push or shove.

Riding the Bus Safely:

- Take your seat promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times.
- Hold backpacks, books and parcels on your lap.
- Do not stick your feet out into the aisle – someone might trip.
- Keep your head and arms – everything – inside the bus.
- Remain seated on the bus while it is moving
- Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate on driving the bus safely.
- Do not eat or drink while on the bus.
- Obey the bus driver at all times.

Leaving the Bus Safely:

- When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and take two large steps away from the bus.
- Items that can easily cause injury while getting on and off a bus include loose shoe laces, backback straps and the strings on hooded shirts. Please secure them.
- To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least ten giant steps. Cross only when the driver gives you the signal.
- If you drop something near the bus, do not pick it up. Tell the driver or an adult.
- If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
- **When you arrive at your bus stop, if you do not see the person who meets you there, tell the bus driver immediately.**

Students must remember that riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Out of concern for the safety of all, the privilege of using the bus will be removed in the case of serious or persistent misbehaviour.

Reminders for Parents:

- In the event that no one is there to meet your child, the driver will bring your child back to the school and a parent will be contacted.
- Bus schedules include a 10 minute period of grace before and after the scheduled pick-up or drop-off times to allow for traffic and weather conditions.
- Visit the Toronto Student Transportation Group website for more information: [www.torontoschoolbus.org](http://www.torontoschoolbus.org) and select the 'Parent' link in the top right hand corner of the page. From there, you can create an account, look up your child's specific transportation information and subscribe to the 'late bus' notification.

### TRUSTEES 2017-2018

Wards

1. Joseph Martino
2. Ann Andrachuk
3. Sal Piccininni
4. Patrizia Bottoni

5. Maria Rizzo
6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair
7. Michael Del Grande
8. Garry Tanuan

9. Jo-Ann Davis
10. Barbara Poplawski
11. Angela Kennedy, Chair
12. Nancy Crawford  
Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee  
Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee

